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A NOTED JOURNALIST.

A Story From the Dep'ts—John Edward Bruce the Veteran Editor, Publisher, Author and Philosopher Portrayed—Where his Diploma Came From.

John Edward Bruce, better known to the public as "Bruce Grit," whose portrait graces this paper, first saw the light of this world at Pictawaway, Md. February 22, 1856, and his amiable mother with whom the writer was acquainted had the good sense not to name him George Washington. If born with a spoon in his mouth, it must have been made of wood, an oyster shell or clam shell. However that may have been, we are reasonably sure that about the first object he reached for was a goose quill. That an edict was not promulgated to slay him was probably due to the ignorance of many of his existence, and of his goose quill antics.

John Edward was started to school (?) quite young and being apt—a "bright child" was never permitted to attend the common schools; in fact, he seemed to have had an aversion to public schools—being a little partial to color; hence, he at once entered the university of his state from which most Negroes hold diplomas, and from which he graduated at an early age. And he now appeared to be proud of his diploma, since it was issued by the faculty of the "University of Adversity," but its only frame has been between the leads of newspapers.

He has been editor and proprietor of The Argus and The Item, Washington, D. C., The Republican, Norfolk, Va., The Commonwealth, Baltimore, Md., all of which bristled with the true ring of republicanism and were ceaseless defenders and advocates of race interests. As a writer, he is aggressive, facile, tenacious, racy and tireless and those whose misfortune it has been to cross swords (quills) with him, have usually been content to sheath them when the contest was ended. Big hearted, his facile pen has been moved to write many kind paragraphs of struggling young men and women which have given them reputation, and even success but Bruce Grit is remembered only as a "good writer."

Among his late writings no article glitters with more brilliancy than his caustic advice to Ex-Secretary H. A. Herbert and the Montgomery Conference, which has been liberally quoted and extensively commented upon by the English press.

The New Age of London, quoting from the "Negro Problem" issued by



*Yours truly
John E. Bruce*

the writer, and devoting nearly two columns commendatory thereof, among other things says of Mr. Bruce's wonderful article:

"All this greatly concerns ourselves, not only because America is dominated by our own Anglo-Saxon race (of whom we are sometimes told that we must believe no evil) but because its influence is strong upon ourselves. Is it not possible that the 'indirect influence' of American domestic ties may have some weight in cabinet and Anglo-Indian circles? Above all, this concerns us in so much as in South Africa we are confronted with all the same 'problem' which baffles the Americans, and which every race who meets them in spirit save that of simple justice and humane consideration—the former the foundation and the latter the crown of all nobly resented state edifice."

Mr. Bruce's collection of literature regarding the Negro race is varied and replete, and it is doubtful if any man living can duplicate his library with respect to variety. That of itself is a clear demonstration of the journalistic trend of his mind. He is the prince of Negro

newspaper correspondents, having for the past twenty six years represented papers in the West Indies, Africa and various sections of America. His articles are always eagerly sought and read because they contain food for thought, a decent threshing for some wayward brother, or a terrible drubbing for some fellow who has dared to assail the integrity of the race. It is said the existence of many Negro newspapers is due to the life infused by the articles of Bruce Grit.

He has just written a caustic review of the lynching habit which is published by the Albany Argus Publishing Co. in pamphlet form. Its title is "The Blood Record." A review of lynchings etc. in the United States by civilized white men. The pamphlet is breezy, bitter, full of biting sarcasm and whole some truths. It is for sale by the Daily Argus Publishing Co. and the Capital City News Co. Washington, Ave Albany, N. Y. and is well worth the price charged for it.

GEO. ALLEN MEBANE.
Elizabeth City, N. C., Feb. 9th 1901.

PROGRESS IN THE SOUTH.

Georgia Afro Americans Set an Example for Their Northern Neighbors—Industrial and Educational Development Shown to Good Advantage—Gate City News Notes.

Atlanta, Ga., Special.—A recent investigation by Dr. W. E. B. DuBois of the chair of Economics and History of Atlanta University shows that there are over twenty two Negro business ventures in the city of Atlanta which may be considered successful. These ventures include almost every kind of business known to the business world, and have a total investment of sixty-four thousand two hundred and sixty dollars.

Some of these ventures have been the means of the accumulation of fairly large fortunes, and are now, after years of careful guidance, thriving. These ventures also have a far reaching influence not only in determining the men of the business world but of the social world also. The managers and proprietors of the firms are held in much respect by both white and colored. According to the last census there are in Atlanta about 40,000 Negroes. Among this population there are 61 business enterprises of sufficient size to be noted. These are as follows:

Grocery Stores, 22; General Merchandise Stores, 5; Wood Yards, 6; Barber Shops, over \$300 invested, 6; Meat Markets, 7; Restaurants, 2; Undertakers, 2; Blacksmith and Wheelrights, with stock, 2; Saloons, 2; Tailor, with stock, 1; Drug Store, 1; Creamery, 1; Pool and Billiard Parlor, 1; Loan and Investment Co., 1; Carriage and Wagon Builder, 1; Real Estate Dealer, 1; Total, 61.

There is a total capitalization of \$11,925 invested in grocery stores alone. The remaining \$52,335 is distributed among the other business enterprises. Nearly all of these investments have grown from very small beginnings, as for instance: Drug store capital at start was \$900, now has an investment of \$1,900. A restaurant started with \$50 now has an investment of \$500; a rocer commenced business with \$50 now has \$600 invested; a tailor began with \$75 now has \$200 invested; an undertaker began with nothing now has invested \$6,000.

Among the list of grocers the names of some of our wealthiest citizens might be found, as: C. C. Carter, A. O. Watts, Charles McHenry, Peter Eckridge, the firm of W. O. Murphy & Son, A. O. Jones and A. C. Wimbish Messrs.

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